

CLAIMS

1. A method of reporting a status of a user of a mobile communication device, comprising:

5 providing at least one event descriptor defining an event in the mobile communication device;
detecting the occurrence of the event as defined by the event descriptor, performed by the mobile communication device;
transmitting a status message to a preselected party upon detecting the occurrence of the event.

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2. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 1, wherein providing at least one event descriptor comprises providing geographic location parameter in the event descriptor.

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3. A method of monitoring status as defined in claim 1, wherein providing at least one criteria set comprises a time parameter.

4. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 1, further comprising:
alerting a user of the mobile communication device of the occurrence of the
20 event in response to detecting the occurrence of the event;
prompting the user of the mobile communication device for an input from the user; and

receiving the input from the user before transmitting the status message.

5. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 4, wherein prompting the user comprises a visual indicator.

6. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 5, wherein alerting the user with a visual indicator comprises illuminating a status response button on the mobile communication device.

7. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 4, wherein prompting the user for an input comprises prompting the user with an auditory alert.

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8. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 4, wherein prompting the user for an input comprises prompting the user with a tactile alert.

9. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 8, wherein prompting the user with a tactile alert comprises prompting the user with a vibratory alert.

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10. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 4, wherein receiving an input comprises authenticating the user.

11. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 10, wherein authenticating the user comprises identifying a fingerprint of the user.

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12. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 10, wherein authenticating the user comprises receiving a password entry from the user.

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13. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 10, wherein authenticating the user comprises performing voice recognition on a speech segment spoken by the user in response to the prompting.

5 14. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 4, wherein receiving the input comprises detecting an actuation of a status response button.

15. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 1, wherein detecting the occurrence of the event comprises detecting a present geographic location.

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16. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 15, wherein detecting the present geographic location comprises using a satellite positioning subsystem of the mobile communication device to determine the present geographic location.

15 17. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 15, wherein detecting the present geographic location comprises receiving location information from a base station providing communication service to the mobile communication device.

18. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 1, wherein detecting
20 the occurrence of the event comprises receiving a message at the mobile communication device.

19. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 18, wherein receiving the message at the mobile communication device comprises receiving a status
25 inquiry message at the mobile communication device.

20. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 18, wherein receiving the message at the mobile communication device comprises receiving a local wireless message from a source other than a mobile communication system.

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21. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 1, wherein transmitting the status message is performed automatically in response to detecting the occurrence of the event.

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22. A mobile communication device for use in a mobile communication system and for providing a status of a user of the mobile communication device, comprising:

- a transceiver for communicating with the mobile communication system;
- 5 memory containing at least one event descriptor, the event descriptor defining an event;
- a user interface for providing information to, and receiving input from the user;
- a controller for evaluating a present status of the mobile communication
- 10 device against the at least one event descriptor for determining an occurrence of the event defined by the at least one event descriptor; and
- status response instruction code disposed in the memory which is executed upon the occurrence of the event, as determined by the controller, the status response code causing the mobile communication device to transmit a status
- 15 response message to a preselected party when executed by the mobile communication device.

23. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 22, wherein the at least one event descriptor comprises a geographic location parameter corresponding

20 to a geographic location, the event occurring when a present location of the mobile communication device is substantially equal to the geographic location.

24. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 23 further comprising a satellite positioning subsystem for determining the present geographic

25 location of the mobile communication device.

25. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 23 wherein the present geographic location of the mobile communication device is determined by a control message received at the mobile communication device transmitted by a base station of the communication system that is presently providing communication service to the mobile communication device.

26. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 22, wherein the at least one event descriptor comprises a time parameter corresponding to an event time, the event occurring when a present time is substantially equal to the event time.

27. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 22, further comprising:

15 means for alerting the user of the mobile communication device of the occurrence of the event in response to detecting the occurrence of the event;

means for prompting the user of the mobile communication device for an input from the user; and

means for receiving the input from the user before transmitting the status message.

28. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 27, wherein the means for prompting the user comprises a visual indicator.

29. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 28, wherein the visual indicator comprises a selectably illuminable status response button, wherein the selectably illuminable response button is illuminated upon the occurrence of the event.

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30. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 27, wherein the means for prompting comprises a speaker for producing an auditory alert.

31. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 27, wherein the
10 means for prompting comprises a mechanical vibrator.

32. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 27, further comprising a means for authenticating the user.

15 33. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 32, wherein the means for authenticating the user comprises a fingerprint recognition subsystem.

34. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 32, wherein the means for authenticating the user comprises a password stored in the memory of the
20 mobile communication device which is compared against a password entered by the user in response to being prompted.

35. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 32, wherein the means for authenticating the user comprises a voice recognition subsystem and a
25 stored speech segment stored in the memory of the mobile communication device.

37. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 27 , wherein the means for receiving the input comprises a status response button.

5 38. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 22, further comprising a means for detecting a present geographic location.

39. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 38, wherein the means for detecting the present geographic location comprises a satellite positioning
10 subsystem.

40. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 22, further comprising a local wireless receiver subsystem for receiving local signals, and wherein the local signals contain information relating to a present location of the
15 mobile communication device.

41. A mobile communication device as defined in claim 27, wherein the means for prompting the user comprises a display of the mobile communication device and at least one icon file describing an icon and being stored in the memory
20 of the mobile communication device, the mobile communication device displaying the icon on the display while prompting the user, and the icon being related to the event.

42. A method of reporting a status of a user of a mobile communication device, comprising:

detecting the occurrence of a status event experience by the mobile communication device; and

5 transmitting a status message from the mobile communication device to second party in response the status event.

43. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 42, wherein detecting the occurrence of the status event comprises detecting a status event defined by an
10 event descriptor file in a memory of the mobile communication device.

44. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 42, wherein detecting the status event comprises detecting an input of a user of the mobile communication device indicating a desire to send a status message.
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45. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 44, wherein detecting the input of the user comprises detecting actuation of a status response button of the mobile communication device.

20 46. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 43, wherein transmitting the status message includes transmitting context information.

47. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 44, wherein transmitting context information comprises selecting background information
25 related to the status event and is performed automatically.

48. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 44, wherein transmitting context information comprises selecting background information selected by the user.

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49. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 44, wherein transmitting context information comprises transmitting a background context image.

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50. A method of reporting status as defined in claim 44, wherein transmitting context information comprises acquiring an image with the mobile communication device to be used as a background image.